
BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | February 2016



OXFORD'S EBOLA EXPERIENCE | SHAKESPEARE CELEBRATIONS | SECURE PROSPECTS



NEWS IN BRIEF

◆ Professor Louise Richardson was installed as the 272nd Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford in a ceremony at the Sheldonian on 12 January. In her address she strongly defended the academic principles of autonomy and freedom of inquiry while calling on the University to show ‘agility’ in an era of globalisation and technological change. A video of the ceremony and a copy of her speech are at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/university-officers/vice-chancellor/news.

◆ Phone support for IT Services is now available 24/7. Out-of-hours calls to the IT service desk (01865 612345) are being routed to a third-party provider, NorMAN, operated by the University of Northumbria. The NorMAN team can offer on-the-spot help with a range of common issues. Calls that can't be resolved immediately will be logged and passed to Oxford's in-hours service desk the next working day. Face-to-face support will continue to be provided through appointments, which are available between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

◆ Are you interested in work shadowing in another European country or attending a workshop or course? Applications are now open for Erasmus funding for staff training and development. The visit can be between two and seven days and must take place before 30 September 2016. The Erasmus programme is designed to encourage student and staff mobility for study and work, and to promote cooperation among universities across Europe. Applications must be submitted by 17 February 2016. Details at www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/international/erasmus/staff-training.

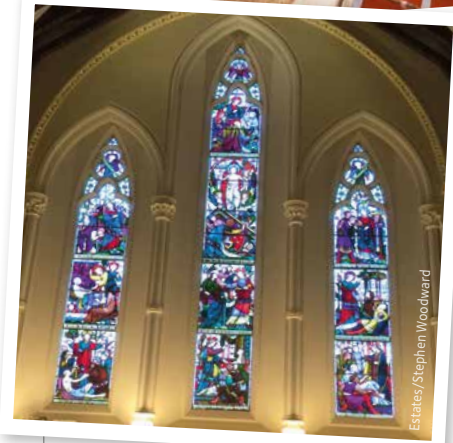
◆ Turn an idea into a digital project with funding from IT Innovation Challenges. The scheme provides funding for small-scale digital projects that will bring a benefit to the University, whether it's a new app or website or a novel way of using existing technology. The spring 2016 challenge opens on 10 February and ideas are invited through an open collaboration tool, the Oxford Ideas platform, by 12 March. The ideas will then be evaluated and a selection invited to develop a project proposal to be considered for funding. Details at www.it.ox.ac.uk/innovation-challenges.

◆ Are you involved in a community group that needs financial support for a project or event? The University has a small community grants scheme, which since 2013 has provided funding for over 50 local projects, from Oxford Open Doors to the Cowley Road Carnival, with grants ranging from £300 to £15,000. Details about the scheme and how to apply (the next deadline is 3 March) are at www.ox.ac.uk/local-community. The website also highlights the many ways in which the University engages with the local community. Download a copy of the community report at www.ox.ac.uk/local-community/engagement.

◆ Following major refurbishment work, St Luke's Chapel in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter is now open for bookings. Seating up to 90 people, the grade II building is available for lectures, seminars, meetings and University events. The chapel will be reserved for lectures during the week and in term time, but can be booked for other University events on weekends, evenings and out of term. For details and booking information, visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/fm/buildings_w_manage/st_lukes.

◆ In 2014/15 the University's total income increased by 21.7% to £1.429bn, with research income exceeding £500m for the first time. Costs increased by 8% to £1.238bn, meaning that a surplus was retained of £184.3m. However, included in the income figure are a number of one-off items: a special transfer of £120m from Oxford University Press, which has been invested in the University's endowment and capital masterplan; a one-off tax credit of £66.6m with respect to allowable research and development expenditure; and a number of donated heritage assets, with a value of £10m. When these items are

excluded, the underlying result is a deficit of £12.3m. The EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) surplus retained for future investment is 3.3% of income, well short of the target rate of 5% and less than the amount the University needs to set aside each year to replace infrastructure. Details at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/aboutus/financialstatements.



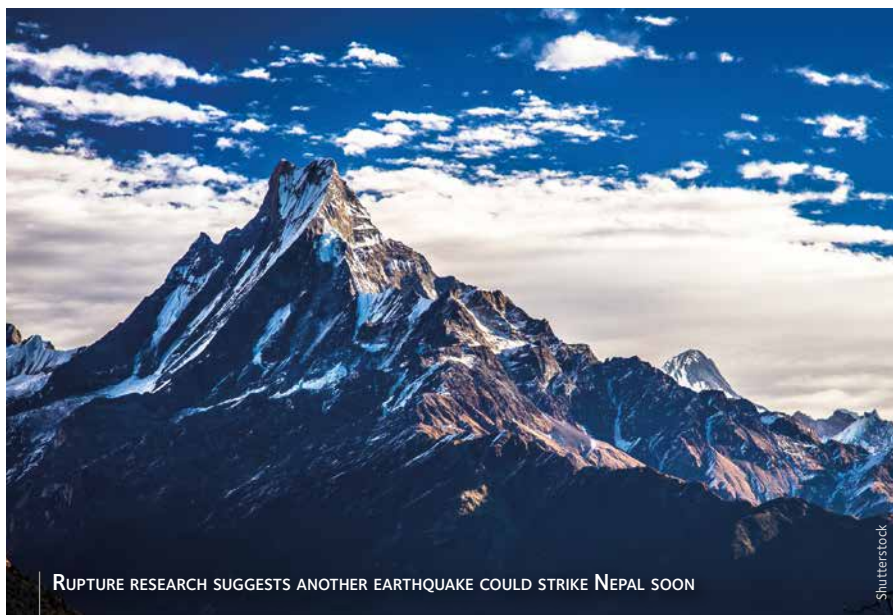
FROM TOP: OXFORD WELCOMES LOUISE RICHARDSON; COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE COWLEY ROAD CARNIVAL; TAKE A LOOK AT ST LUKE'S; LEFT: THE UNIVERSITY CHEST



COVER: OXFORD CONTEMPLATES SHAKESPEARE (SEE PP12-13)

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ An international team of scientists led by Oxford has shed new light on the earthquake that devastated Nepal in April 2015, killing more than 8,000 people. The researchers demonstrate that the rupture on the regional fault line stopped 11km below Kathmandu, indicating that another major earthquake could take place within years or decades, rather than the centuries that might be expected for the area. The study also shows that a kink in the fault explains why the highest mountains in the Himalayas are seen to grow between earthquakes. The kink has created a ramp 20km below the surface, with material constantly being pushed up and raising the height of the mountains. Last April's earthquake then reversed this almost instantly, dropping the mountains back down by up to 60cm when the pressure was released as the crust suddenly snapped.



RUPTURE RESEARCH SUGGESTS ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE COULD STRIKE NEPAL SOON

◆ More than 100 students and academics from Oxford have translated extracts from great French writers of the 18th century to demonstrate the importance of freedom and tolerance in French literature and thought. A book of these translated quotations was published to mark the first anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, and is freely available to read on the website of Open Book Publishers. The book is targeted at the general public and the authors hope it will be used for teaching in schools. Project leader Dr Caroline Warman of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages says: 'We hope people will be excited by the texts and that it will help them to reflect on the world we live in now.'

◆ Mariners have long spoken of 'walls of water' appearing from nowhere in the open seas, but oceanographers have generally disregarded such stories and suggested that rogue waves – enormous surface waves that have attained a near-mythical status over the centuries – build up gradually and have relatively narrow crests. New Oxford research, however, shows that the anecdotal evidence may not be so far from the truth. Rather than coming at the end of a series of increasingly large waves, rogue – or freak – waves emerge suddenly, being preceded by much smaller waves. The mathematical modelling also demonstrates that the crests of these rogue waves are longer than the smaller waves that surround them.

◆ A publicly funded scheme to upgrade streets in a Mexican city – providing asphalt-surfaced roads that connected with the city grid for the first time – made the residents wealthier within just two years, says new research. A study by researchers at the Universities of Oxford and Toronto compared the fortunes of those living in streets that benefited from the scheme with those living in similar neighbouring streets without the upgrade. 'As well as providing better links to the city, the building of roads translates into higher property prices, more credit, more household appliances and more vehicles that allow residents to become more mobile,' says study co-author Dr Climent Quintana-Domeque, Associate Professor in Economics at Oxford.

◆ Oxford surgeons have become the first in the UK to implant the world's most advanced 'bionic eye'. They placed the tiny wafer-thin retinal implant chip at the back of patient Rhian Lewis's right eye in a delicate operation lasting several hours. She subsequently undertook tests such as looking closely at a large cardboard clock to see if she could tell the time correctly. Commenting on her partially restored vision, Rhian said: 'It's really just pure joy to get something right, because I've never done it before – well, not for the last 16 or 17 years anyway.' Professor Robert MacLaren, who is leading the trial, says: 'What Rhian and

others are trying to do is reactivate a part of the brain that hasn't been doing anything for the last 10 years or so and there is a lot of rehabilitation because basically they are learning to see again.'



► For more information, visit www.ox.ac.uk/news and www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews

TOP: NEW TRANSLATIONS COMMEMORATE THE CHARLIE HEBDO ATTACKS; BOTTOM: THE TIDE TURNS ON THE 'WALLS OF WATER' MYTH

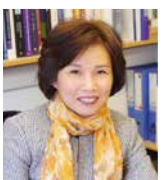
PEOPLE AND PRIZES



Archie Brown, Emeritus Professor of Politics, has been honoured with a 2015 Distinguished Contribution Award by the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies for his influential work that has shaped the study of Soviet and Russian domestic politics in the English-speaking world.



Luciano Floridi, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics of Information and Director of Research at the Oxford Internet Institute, has received the Walter J Ong Award, given by the Media Ecology Association for his 'exemplary record of scholarship and innovation in works that span the bridges between philosophy and media studies'.



Xiaolan Fu, Professor of Technology and International Development, has been invited to join a group of high-level advisors to the UN's new Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which seeks to promote science, technology and innovation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She is the only representative from the academic community in the ten-member group.



Elsbeth Garman, Professor of Molecular Biophysics, has been awarded the 2016 American Crystallographic Association Fankuchen Award for her 'absolute dedication to teaching crystallography in seminars and workshops all over the world, and her great contributions to improve cryo-methods in crystallography'.



Susan Jebb, Professor of Diet and Population Health, has received the 2015 John Maddox Prize for Standing Up for Science. She is recognised for her promotion of public understanding of nutrition on a diverse range of issues of public concern, from food supplements to dieting, and in particular for tackling misconceptions about sugar in the media and among the public, and for continuing to engage with the media and the public on issues of dietary advice despite enduring personal attacks.



Dr Tarun Khaitan, Associate Professor of Law, Hackney Fellow in Law at Wadham and an Associate of the Oxford Human Rights Hub, has been appointed an Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. The Academic Fellows Scheme recognises the outstanding contribution of legal teaching and research of early to mid-career academics and aims to build a stronger relationship between the Bar, judiciary and legal academia.



Jennifer Payne, Professor of Corporate Finance Law, has been appointed as a member of the Consultative Working Group of the European Securities and Markets Authority's Corporate Finance Standing Committee. ESMA is one of three European Supervisory Authorities established in the wake of the financial crisis, and has a remit to improve the functioning of financial markets in Europe, strengthen investor protection and support cooperation across the EU.



Sabina Pugh, Senior Book Conservator at the Bodleian Libraries, has been awarded a Balfour of Burleigh Tercentenary Prize. The prize is awarded for exceptional merit in the field of craft, and recognises her expertise in the conservation of medieval parchment manuscripts and early printed books.



Alan Rusbridger, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall and former editor of the *Guardian*, has been awarded the British Journalism Awards Marie Colvin prize for improving the reputation of British journalism during his 20 years at the helm of the *Guardian*.



Dr Manish Sadarangani, clinical lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics and Honorary Specialist Registrar in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology at the Children's Hospital, has won the Academy of Medical Sciences Communications Prize for his talk on the body's immune response to novel vaccines at the Academy's winter meeting.



Paul Slack, Emeritus Professor of Early Modern Social History, has won the Samuel Pepys Award 2015 for *The Invention of Improvement: Information and Material Progress in Seventeenth-Century England*, published by Oxford University Press.



Martin Turner, Professor of Clinical Neurology and Neuroscience, has received the Graham Bull Prize for Clinical Science from the Royal College of Physicians. His work focuses on identifying markers of disease activity across the different types of motor neuron disease and he heads the Oxford Study for Biomarkers in Motor Neuron Disease.



Geert Jan van Gelder, Emeritus Laudian Professor of Arabic and Wellcome Research Fellow, is a joint recipient with his co-author, Professor Gregor Schoeler of the University of Basel, of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding, category Arabic to English. The prize recognises their translation of *The Epistle of Forgiveness* by the Syrian writer Abu l-Ala al-Ma'arri (d 1057).



Dr Lidia Vasilieva of the Department of Biochemistry has been awarded the 2016 Women in Cell Biology Early Career Medal by the British Society for Cell Biology for her work investigating the molecular mechanisms that underpin regulation of gene expression and their role in controlling cellular responses.



Angela Vincent, Emeritus Professor of Neuroimmunology, has been awarded the 2016 Outstanding Contribution to British Neuroscience Award by the British Neuroscience Association. Her work has created a step change in the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune disorders, including myasthenia gravis and encephalitis, and led to the discovery of new brain and neuromuscular diseases. She has also been a supportive and outstanding role model to other women in the biosciences.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Five members of the University were recognised in the 2016 New Year honours.



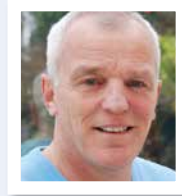
Professor Christopher Bulstrode, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton, has been appointed

CBE for services to humanitarian medicine. Professor Bulstrode, who was Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University and a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre from 1982 until his retirement in 2010, was honoured for his work with Doctors of the World. The charity provides medical care to people affected by war, natural disasters, disease, hunger, poverty or exclusion around the world. Professor Bulstrode has worked with the organisation in countries including Afghanistan, Haiti, Nepal, Palestine, Sierra Leone and Ukraine.



Professor Linda McDowell, Professor of Human Geography and Fellow of St John's, has been appointed **CBE** for services to geography

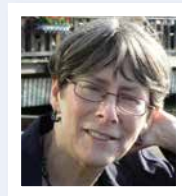
and higher education. An economic geographer interested in the connections between economic restructuring, labour market change and class and gender divisions in the UK, she has been at the forefront in the development of feminist perspectives on contemporary social and economic change, as well as in the development of feminist methodologies and pedagogic practices. Professor McDowell has a long-standing commitment to the diffusion of the social sciences and has taught both conventional and adult students across a range of subjects including social policy, urban and women's studies, as well as geography.



Professor Keith Willett, Professor of Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery, Fellow of Wolfson and Director for Acute Care at NHS England, has been

appointed **CBE** for services to the NHS. An NHS consultant surgeon for 24 years, Professor Willett has a particular research interest in the care of the multiply injured patient, acetabular and pelvic fractures, fractures in the elderly, limb fracture surgery, fracture biomechanics, accident prevention and clinical outcome studies of orthopaedic

trauma surgery techniques. In 2003 he established the Oxford Trauma Research Group and founded the Kadoorie Centre for Critical Care Research and Education, which focuses on the treatment of critically ill and injured patients. In 2009 he was appointed the first National Clinical Director for Trauma Care at the Department of Health. As Director of Acute Care for NHS England, he now has national medical oversight of acute NHS services ranging from pre-hospital and ambulance services, emergency departments, urgent surgery, acute medicine, children's and maternity, armed forces, and health and justice services and national major incidents.



Ms Fran Bennett, Senior Research and Teaching Fellow at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, has been appointed

OBE for services to social science. She has a particular interest in social security policy, gender issues, and poverty, income distribution and participation. She is also an independent consultant and has written extensively on social policy issues for the UK government, non-governmental organisations and others. She is one of the UK independent experts on social inclusion for the European Commission. Ms Bennett worked for the Child Poverty Action Group from 1983 to 1993 as deputy director and then director, and in the late 1990s was policy advisor on UK and EU poverty issues for Oxfam GB. She is an active member of the Women's Budget Group. Her recent research projects include an ESRC-funded study of the interaction between within-household inequalities and policy on tax and benefits in the UK, and an evidence and policy review on gender and poverty, written (with Professor Mary Daly) for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's anti-poverty strategies programme.



The Revd Canon Brian Mountford, Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fellow and Chaplain of St Hilda's, and Honorary

Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, has been appointed **MBE** for services to ecclesiastical history. He is interested in modern philosophy and theology, particularly questions of faith and doctrine,

and gives seminars on leadership and ethics in corporate life for the Saïd Business School and the Academy for Leadership in the Netherlands. Canon Mountford has served for almost 30 years as Vicar of the University Church, which ministers to the University, the city of Oxford and 400,000 visitors a year. During his tenure the church has undergone a major two-year restoration project. He will retire from the University Church in April 2016.

LÉGION D'HONNEUR

Professor François Nosten, Head of the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand, has been awarded France's highest honour,



l'Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur, in recognition of 33 years' work fighting malaria.

Professor Nosten's work concentrates on uncomplicated malaria. He has conducted the largest ever drug trials in malaria in an area which has the world's most drug-resistant parasites, including a detailed study of the SPf66 malaria vaccine. Recent studies have concentrated on the efficacy and effectiveness of combination anti-malarial therapy. He has also investigated malaria prophylaxis and antimalarial treatment in pregnancy and the identification of thiamine deficiency (beri-beri) as a major cause of infant mortality amongst Karen refugees.

The Shoklo Malaria Research Unit is part of MORU, a Thailand-based research partnership between Oxford and Mahidol universities. The unit was set up in 1986 in a refugee camp on the Thai-Burmese border and has grown to be a major provider of health services, with laboratory facilities in the town of Mae Sot, a major health centre at Maela Camp and smaller clinics in other villages.

VIEWFINDER FOUND

This internal view (p20) shows the forum of the new Blavatnik School of Government, designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron. The light-filled space links the surrounding study and lecture areas and provides a venue for exhibitions, formal receptions and impromptu discussions. Construction of the new building took 764,000 hours of work on site – equivalent to one person working for 372 years.

Photo credit: Blavatnik School of Government

QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE FOR IBME



Oxford's pioneering work in biomedical engineering has been recognised with a Queen's Anniversary Prize. These prizes, which are awarded every two years, recognise universities and colleges which have demonstrated excellence, innovation, impact and societal benefit.

The Institute of Biomedical Engineering (IBME), a research institute in the Department of Engineering Science, has been at the forefront of innovation in medical technology for the past seven years, hosting world-leading projects such as the first human liver to be kept alive at body temperature outside the body. During this time nine commercial spinout companies have been established, including OxSonic (ultrasound therapy), Oxhealth (cameras as health monitors), Intelligent Ultrasound (quality assurance of imaging services), and CN BioInnovation (fast-tracking of new drugs).

Since its opening in 2008 IBME has more than doubled in staff, having raised over £50m in research funding. More than 20 clinical trials have been completed, ranging from pregnancy screening and diabetes self-management to organ preservation. International collaborations currently underway include a Regenerative Medicine Technology Centre with China, and the Oxford Biodesign programme in collaboration with Stanford University.

BROWNLOW BOOK AWARD

Christopher Hood, Emeritus Professor of Government, and **Dr Ruth Dixon**, Associate Member of the Department of Politics and International Relations, have won the 2015 Louis Brownlow Award for their book *A Government that Worked Better and Cost Less? Evaluating Three Decades of Reform and Change in UK Central Government*. The awards committee of the National Academy of Public Administration honoured the book 'for its comprehensive study of reform, cost and performance'.

TEN SILVER SWANS

Ten Oxford departments received silver awards at the national Athena SWAN awards ceremony in December, at which 96 awards were presented to institutions and departments who are taking action on gender inequality in higher education. Silver awards are presented by the Equality Challenge Unit in recognition of an institution's response to identified challenges and the impact of its equality and diversity policies and practices.

Of the 24 silver awards made nationwide, 10 went to departments in Oxford's MPLS and Medical Sciences Divisions: Biochemistry; Chemistry; Paediatrics; Experimental Psychology; DPAG; the Nuffield Departments of Clinical Neurosciences, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Population Health, and Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences; and the Dunn School of Pathology.

The University now has 18 silver and 9 bronze awards, with all departments in Medical Sciences and MPLS holding an award. The charter has recently been extended to other disciplines, and departments in the Humanities and Social Sciences will shortly be able to apply.

PLASMA PHYSICS PRIZE

Three members of Oxford's Department of Physics – **Professor Justin Wark**, **Dr Sam Vinko** and **Dr Orlando Ciricosta** – have shared in the 2015 John Dawson Award for Excellence in Plasma Physics, presented by the American Physical Society.

The prize committee acknowledged their work using the world's first hard x-ray laser to create and diagnose matter in the laboratory under similar conditions to those that exist halfway to the centre of the sun. The citation reads: 'For creative and novel use of the hard x-ray free-electron laser to isochorically create high-density plasmas and accurately measure the ionisation potential depression, and for new theory that addresses discrepancies with long-standing models and provides stimulus for continued developments'.

ARRIVALS BOARD

DIRECTOR, PITT RIVERS MUSEUM



Laura Van Broekhoven, Head of the Curatorial Department and Curator of Middle and South America at the National Museum of

World Cultures, the Netherlands, and Assistant Professor of Archeology and Indigenous Heritage Studies at Leiden University, has been appointed to this post within Academic Services and University Collections with effect from 1 March. She also becomes a Fellow of Linacre.

Dr Van Broekhoven is an expert in Amerindian archaeology and cultural history and has conducted archaeological, ethnographical and archival fieldwork in Mesoamerica, the Andean Region and Central America. As well as studying oral histories of Yokot'an Maya in Tabasco, Mexico; the colonisation of the Central Nicaraguan Region; and biographies of markets and merchants of the Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca, Mexico, she now focuses on questions of decolonisation of museum collections and galleries and issues concerning repatriation and collaborative museology with indigenous and diaspora communities. Projects include collaborative work in Brazil and Suriname with the Ka'apor, Kari'na, Wayana, Lokono and Tareno.

NOTICE BOARD



◆ **Emma Potts**, formerly Director of Student Administration and Services, has now taken up the post of Academic Registrar and will be responsible for providing leadership and coordination across the University in the development of student-related services and operations and for managing the Academic Administration Division (AAD). She has overall responsibility for: AAD Administration and Communications, Careers Service, Language Centre, Oxford Learning Institute, Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, Graduate Admissions and Funding, Education Policy Support, Sport, Student Administration, Student Systems, and Student Welfare and Support Services. Emma has worked in higher education administration for over 25 years and has been at Oxford since September 2006 in a variety of roles within Student Administration and Services. She previously worked at UCL, specialising in examination administration and student systems implementation.

WHAT'S ON

EXHIBITIONS

Playing with history

Until 6 March 2016

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

A display of board games and pastimes, selected from a collection recently donated to the Bodleian by Richard Ballam, which shows how games have been used to teach history.

Easter Rising: responses and reflections, 1916–2016

Until 3 April 2016

Proscholium, Bodleian Library

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

A display to mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, using the Bodleian's extensive collections of political and literary papers.

Andy Warhol: Works from the Hall Collection

Until 15 May 2016

Ashmolean Museum

Tickets £10 / £9 / £5

www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions/andywarhol

The Ashmolean's spring exhibition presents an important private collection of works by Andy Warhol, which spans his entire output, from 1960s pop art pioneer to the experimental works of his last decade.

Architecture in Miniature

Until 15 May 2016

Ashmolean Museum

www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions

Display of the Oxford-inspired work of architectural silversmith Vicki Ambery-Smith and ceramist Hugh Colvin.

CONCERTS

The Complete Bach Cello Suites

Friday 12 and Saturday 13 February, 7pm

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building,

St Hilda's College

Tickets £25 / £20 stalls (save 25% when booking for both concerts)

www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp-music-building

In a pair of concerts held on consecutive days, Steven Isserlis performs all six of Bach's cello suites, separated by short works by the Hungarian composer György Kurtág.

ANIMA: New Music with Animation

Friday 26 February, 7.30pm

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's

College

Tickets £15 / £10

www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp-music-building

A concert of film music alongside projections of abstract animated films in a collaboration between St Anne's and St Hilda's composers and video artists from the Ruskin School of Art.

LECTURES AND TALKS

Antimicrobial resistance: the global problem

Wednesday 17 February, 5.30pm

Mathematical Institute, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

<http://woaseries.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England, will give the inaugural lecture in the Women of Achievement series.

A great unrecorded history: LGBTQ heritage in world cultures

Tuesday 23 February, 6pm

Mathematical Institute, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

www.oxlgbt2016.eventbrite.co.uk

Richard Parkinson, Professor of Egyptology, will give the 2016 LGBT History Month Lecture.

Putting the clock back: a playwrights' view of dismal conservatism

Thursday 3 March, 5pm

Blavatnik School of Government

www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/events/richard-hillary-lecture

Talk by the playwright Sir David Hare.



Vaccines for Ebola: tackling a market failure

Wednesday 9 March, 6.45pm

The Assembly Hall, Church House, Westminster

Tickets £15

www.ox.ac.uk/oll16

Professor Adrian Hill, Director of the Jenner Institute, will give the sixth annual Oxford London Lecture.

Gastrophysics: the new science of multisensory dining

Thursday 17 March, 7pm

Museum of the History of Science

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events

Professor Charles Spence explores the rapidly developing field of gastrophysics – how soundscapes and music come together with taste to make the experience more stimulating.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Eat or be eaten!

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 February, 1–4pm

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

www.oum.ox.ac.uk/visiting/whatson.htm

Drop-in session exploring the skills of attack and defence.

Chinese dragon fire clocks

Thursday 18 February, 1–4pm

Museum of the History of Science

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events

Make a working Chinese dragon fire clock to celebrate Chinese New Year. Drop-in event for children aged 7 upwards.

WORKSHOPS

DNA workshop

Sunday 13 March, 12–4pm

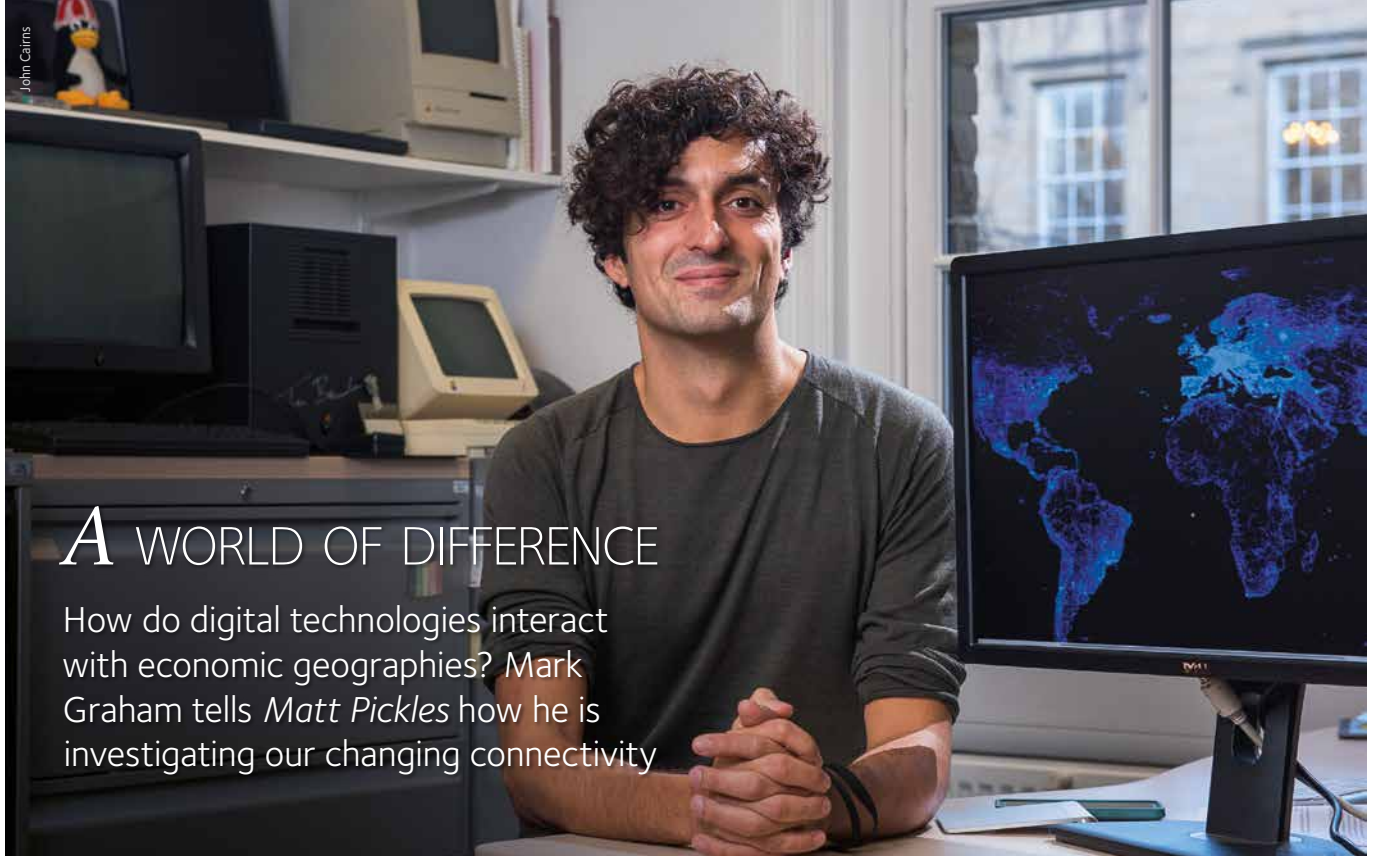
Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Tickets £45

<http://bit.ly/mnhevents>

Practical workshop to investigate the genetics of taste using your own DNA. Suitable for ages 16+.





A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

How do digital technologies interact with economic geographies? Mark Graham tells *Matt Pickles* how he is investigating our changing connectivity

What constitutes a city? Most answers will probably mention roads, buildings and people, but Dr Mark Graham of the Oxford Internet Institute says we also need to think of cities as a collection of data, information and algorithms.

Dr Graham, who is a Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor at the OII, began his academic life at the University of Kentucky, where he studied computer science and geography in the years between starting as an undergraduate and completing his doctorate. Today his research combines the two disciplines by thinking of the way in which the internet and the city come together.

‘Over the last few centuries there has been lots of thinking about who owns a city and what rights people living in a city have, but this thinking hasn’t yet been transported to the digital age,’ explains Dr Graham, who is also a Research Fellow at Green Templeton and an associate of the School of Geography and the Environment.

‘We understand what it means if a company controls 80% of the bread market, and there are laws against that, but we don’t really know what it means if, for example, Facebook owns most of the social media market, or Google dominates the market of searching for information. Google and Facebook control so much of this information and access, but they are not subject to the same amount of scrutiny as public utility companies.’

Through his research, Dr Graham is trying to work out who controls and produces information on the internet, and how this affects the world. Though he says the effects of the internet are often overstated: ‘Ten or twenty years ago some people thought the internet would bring about the death of cities because people would be able to do anything from

anywhere but this has not happened.’

He is particularly interested in the claims that some people make about how the internet could help economic development. Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg is campaigning to connect everyone in the developing world to the internet, citing a statistic that for every ten poor people that are given a connection to the web,

‘We don’t really know what it means if, for example, Facebook owns most of the social media market, or Google dominates the market of searching for information’

one is subsequently lifted out of poverty.

‘In reality we do not have a great evidence base for the real impacts of access to internet for the world’s poorest,’ says Dr Graham. ‘For example, the report cited by Mark Zuckerberg was done by Deloitte but funded by Facebook. In some ways the internet has actually given a larger voice to certain parts of the world, and left out other parts. We see this in the volume of information on Wikipedia about different parts of the world – it tends to favour developed countries in the west.’

Dr Graham assesses existing studies about the impact of the internet on the developing

world, and also travels to sub-Saharan Africa to carry out his own research. He has recently been studying the Kenyan government’s large investment in improving internet access in order to foster a digital economy in the country. ‘There is often not even a stable power supply there,’ he says. ‘Lack of electricity and lighting in schools and homes, lack of supply of teachers and corruption are still major problems which are not going to be solved by the internet alone. We must be careful not to prioritise internet access over tackling these deeper difficulties.’

Dr Graham and the Oxford Internet Institute are trying to create a database of evidence regarding the effect of the internet on cities and on economic development. ‘We are trying to cut through the complexity of all these claims and create and translate it for people that need it, so that they can make policy from a better evidence base, if they are willing to listen,’ he says.

People are listening. Dr Graham regularly writes articles in the national and international news and sits on the digital advisory panel for the Department for International Development. He also discusses internet issues directly with people on his Twitter account and through blog posts.

‘I feel that if I’m not translating work for the general public then I’m not doing my job properly,’ he says. ‘We get paid to read, write, think and do research, so I think we’re doing the world a disservice if we don’t at least make our best effort to try and communicate that.’

▶ Dr Graham’s research is described at www.oii.ox.ac.uk/people/graham and his blogs and newspaper articles are at <https://twitter.com/geoplace>



Oriel Remembers

Stuart Gillespie reports on Oriel College's memorial wood

SAPLINGS ARE BEING PLANTED FOR EACH COLLEGE MAN KILLED

Very few communities in Britain were left untouched by the First World War, and the University of Oxford was no exception. A century on from the conflict, one of the Oxford colleges profoundly affected by the unprecedented slaughter has embarked on a novel project to commemorate those who lost their lives.

Making use of grazing land at Iffley Fields, Oriel College – in conjunction with the University Parks team – is planting a tree for each college man who gave his life in the Great War. Fifty trees have already been planted, marking those killed in 1914 and 1915, and there will be further plantings on an annual basis until 2018.

Oriel – which was a men-only college at that time – had one of the highest rates of enlistment among the colleges: 88% of those in residence in October 1914 joined up, and more than 700 Oriel men were in the forces during the war.

Wilf Stephenson, Treasurer of Oriel, explains that the college originally acquired part of the Iffley Fields site in the 19th century, purchasing further land from the Donnington Trust in the 1980s with a view to creating a sports ground. 'Since the 1960s, after a spell as a city tip, the area has been rough grassland farmed by Mr White of Iffley, and has latterly become a target for antisocial behaviour,' he says. 'About 18 months ago, Mr White had to retire from farming. The college decided to tidy up the site, restore the boundaries and return it to grazing.'

With the help of staff from the University Parks department, the site was cleared early last year, paving the way for the planting project. Then Mr Stephenson had an idea: 'When we were discussing the tidy-up of the meadows, I had the idea of planting a tree for

each Oriel man who gave his life in the First World War. By the end of the project, 162 trees will have been planted along the boundary with Meadow Lane, in three or four copses. We expect most of the site to remain as grazing land for the foreseeable future.'

Walter Sawyer, University Parks Superintendent, explains that, while the meadows had been grazed for many years, a significant part had become neglected and overgrown with brambles. 'The team spent several weeks clearing the woody growth from the site and removing stumps of the volunteer trees that had developed,' he remembers. 'The

'88% of those in residence in Oriel in October 1914 joined up and more than 700 Oriel men were in the forces during the war'

cut material was processed mechanically and the shredded waste was spread on parts of the site to break down naturally.'

The Parks team has also built boundary fences and planted a new hedge of native Midland species at the north end of the site, which, despite the dry spring and early summer, is growing well. In time it will provide shelter from the north and a good habitat for nesting birds.

Mr Sawyer adds: 'Although it isn't ancient meadow, the site provides a good habitat for



some species, supporting a reasonably diverse mix of plant life. However, ground had been lost to other species over time – particularly those favouring grassland. But the site is already being colonised by those species once again.'

This boost for flora and fauna has been a welcome consequence of the project. 'As work commenced, we consulted the local badger preservation society, which identified a sett in the south-west corner,' says Mr Stephenson. 'This area has therefore been left wild. We also discussed the site with a butterfly preservation specialist, who advised on suitable species to include in the hedgerows.'

The commemorative trees themselves comprise specimens of English oak, wild cherry, sweet chestnut, silver birch, alder and a disease-resistant variety of elm. The species are all common to the Oxford area and are ideal for supporting birds and insects, while the trees are being grouped to provide a strong visual impact from the surrounding streets and paths.

It is a fitting tribute to the sacrifice made by those Oriel men a century ago.

▶ Read about life in Oxford during World War One at www.ox.ac.uk/world-war-1



Ebola photo credits: Dr Rebecca Ingilis

OUTBREAK: LESSONS FROM EBOLA

Charvy Narain describes how Oxford medics found themselves on the front line

On 6 December 2013 a two-year-old boy called Emile Ouamouno died of a serious illness in a small village in Guinea. A month later Emile's three-year-old sister, his mother and grandmother were all dead.

This was the start of an Ebola epidemic that swept through West Africa in 2014, killing over 11,000 people and infecting nearly 30,000. The World Health Organization (WHO) called it 'the largest and the most complex Ebola outbreak since the Ebola virus was first discovered in 1976'. An Ebola infection results in high fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, impaired kidney and liver function and, in some cases, internal and external bleeding; fatality rates can be as high as 90%. There are no licensed treatments or vaccines for the disease, and in August 2014 the WHO declared the West African Ebola outbreak 'a Public Health Emergency of International Concern'.

In August 2014 in Oxford, Professor Adrian Hill, Director of the University's Jenner Institute, came back from his summer holiday to phone calls from both the Wellcome Trust and the WHO. Professor Hill is a vaccine expert and both phone calls asked him if he could test – at record speed – a vaccine for Ebola. In parallel with Dr Matthew Snape from the Oxford Vaccine Group, Professor Hill carried out the

first human trials of a candidate Ebola vaccine, with both trials taking only months to complete. As Dr Snape notes: 'Four out of the five Ebola vaccine candidates trialled in Africa during this outbreak were all tested for the first time in humans in the same building in Oxford' – the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine at the Churchill Hospital.

The results from the vaccine testing were promising: 'But the problem was that these

After crossing from Guinea to Liberia by canoe, the team were met by border guards armed with guns – and a book to record travellers' body temperatures

levels were below what had been found to be protective in animal studies,' says Professor Hill. 'So we added a second vaccine to boost the immune response further.'

As a combination of public health efforts and the VSV vaccine (a single-dose vaccine developed initially in Canada and tested later at the Oxford-linked unit in Kilifi, Kenya) brought the epidemic under control, large-scale trials of

the two-dose Oxford vaccines were no longer possible. But Professor Hill thinks that these might actually be more effective: 'Our guess is that, for very short-term protection, a single dose of any of the three vaccines will work well, but for durable longer-term protection – such as for nurses and health workers in areas at risk – it is likely that the two-dose vaccines will be better.'

Just before August 2014 another Oxford researcher found himself unexpectedly involved with the Ebola outbreak. Peter Horby is Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases and Global Health at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, and a veteran of many epidemics. 'I went out to Vietnam for a short WHO secondment as part of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak team – and ended up staying for nine years,' he comments wryly. He is the founding director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Hanoi, Vietnam, and his main interest is bringing science to the forefront in an outbreak response.

Professor Horby relocated back to the UK in July 2014, but by October he was on a plane to West Africa to set up clinical trials for a candidate Ebola treatment at one of the Médecins Sans Frontières Ebola treatment



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A MEMBER OF PROFESSOR HORBY'S TEAM BEING SPRAYED WITH BLEACH AFTER BEING IN THE EBOLA 'HOT ZONE'; RESEARCHERS ON THE 'SAFE SIDE' TAKE A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH (A PERMANENT RECORD) OF CLINICAL NOTES BEFORE THEY ARE BURNED; CLINICIANS DEBRIEF AN ABOUT-TO-BE DISCHARGED EBOLA SURVIVOR (OUT OF SHOT) – ALL SURVIVORS ENTERED A FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME ON DISCHARGE; BLEACHED GLOVES AND SHOES WAITING TO BE USED BY RESEARCHERS ENTERING THE 'HOT ZONE'

centres. Organising a clinical trial in an area with limited infrastructure had its moments: after crossing from Guinea to Liberia by canoe, the team were met by border guards armed with guns – and a book to record travellers' body temperatures (a public health measure to stop potentially infected patients). 'What they didn't have was a thermometer, so they recorded temperatures by looking at us and deciding whether we looked okay,' says Professor Horby.

The team had to carry out clinical trials in highly contaminated 'hot' wards where nothing comes out, except a patient who has had all their clothes burned to prevent the spread of infection – all while wearing spacesuit-like protective clothing. Patients' records and consent forms had to be burned, which was 'highly unusual for a clinical trial', as Professor Horby puts it. Instead, to properly document information, the team in the 'hot zone' held up the relevant paper records on a clip board and a team member in the 'safe zone' took a digital photograph. 'We did quite enjoy these challenges, and we were generally able to find some way of meeting them,' Professor Horby adds. The challenges included organising DPhil supervision sessions in an Ebola treatment centre for

the doctoral student on the team: 'DPhils in Oxford can be very interesting,' he notes.

The team succeeded in conducting trials of two experimental antiviral drugs in West Africa. Although the trials did not identify a successful drug for Ebola, Professor Horby is very satisfied with the achievements: 'The purpose of a drug trial is to find an answer. Quite often, the answer is that the drug is not beneficial; that is to be expected. In the process we have gained huge experience and shown that clinical research is possible even in the most extreme environments.'

Professors Hill and Horby have since called on G7 leaders to support a global programme to prepare for the next major disease outbreak. 'We've learnt from the experience with the Ebola epidemic that developing these vaccines is feasible, so we should really have stockpiles of vaccines ready to use and test against the many viral pathogens which have caused outbreaks in the past ten years – MERS-CoV, SARS, Lassa fever, Rift Valley fever – there is a

long list of over ten diseases,' says Professor Hill, who will be addressing this topic in the 2016 Oxford London Lecture.

It's a point echoed by Professor Trudie Lang, who was an investigator with Professor Horby and guided the trial methods and operations: 'Testing Ebola treatments in this latest epidemic happened a bit too late, after the height of the epidemic. It is now imperative to embed research in the response to outbreaks, and to develop research capacity locally in places where research usually doesn't happen, such as West Africa. These plans need to be agreed well in advance: only then can experimental treatments be tested within days, not months.'

After all, as Professor Horby says, 'There is always another outbreak.'

▶ The 2016 Oxford London Lecture, 'Vaccines for Ebola: tackling a market failure' by Professor Adrian Hill, takes place on 9 March at Church House, Westminster. Details at: www.ox.ac.uk/oll16



Richard Budd



Richard Budd

SHAKESPEARE ON SHOW

Oxford is marking the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death with events including arias, magic, poetry and hip hop performance, explains *Matt Pickles*

Thou know'st 'tis common; all that lives must die, passing through nature to eternity.

So wrote William Shakespeare in *Hamlet*, Act I, Scene 2. Shakespeare himself may have long since 'passed through nature to eternity', but he has not been forgotten.

This year is the 400th anniversary of his death and it is being marked in Oxford by a busy programme of events between March and December. Shakespeare's life, work and legacy will be celebrated with performances, talks, exhibitions, concerts, conferences, film showings, poetry and youth projects.

Shakespeare Oxford 2016 has been organised by a consortium of the Bodleian Libraries, the Faculty of English, Oxford University Press, Blackwell's and Experience Oxfordshire. They are being supported by cultural organisations across the city including the Oxford Playhouse, Oxfordshire County Council Libraries and SJE Arts (which is based at St Stephen's House, a Permanent Private Hall of the University).

One of the centrepieces of the festival will

be a major exhibition called 'Shakespeare's Dead', which will be held in the Weston Library from 23 April to 4 September. The exhibition is being curated by Professor Emma Smith and Professor Simon Palfrey of the

'The Bodleian's collections suggest a Shakespeare whose ideas about death always have an edge of playfulness, a paradoxical liveliness or life-ishness'

University's English Faculty. 'We hope this will be a centrepiece of a lot of creative and scholarly events across the city celebrating the 400th anniversary,' says Professor Smith. 'The exhibition uses the Bodleian's collections to suggest a Shakespeare whose ideas about death always have an edge of playfulness, a paradoxical liveliness or life-ishness.'

Professor Smith is one of a number of English academics who will give talks on Shakespeare and death during the year. The first will be by Professor Bart Van Es on 2 March in the Weston Library's lecture theatre. He will make the case that 1594 was the most important year in Shakespeare's life because it is when he bought a share in an acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men. '1594 made Shakespeare rich, artistically independent, and – most important of all – it changed his writing style because he shifted from working freelance to working with a known group of actors (a set of individuals who each become a long-term influence on characterisation in his plays),' he notes.

The 'Speak the Speech' series will also feature Sir Jonathan Bate, Provost of Worcester and a Shakespeare expert, who will discuss 'Shakespeare and magic'. Professor Emma Smith will explain how Shakespeare's death has been memorialised and Professor Peter McCullough will discuss funeral sermons in Shakespeare's time. Professor Steven



Richard Budd

Gunn of the History Faculty will also talk about everyday death in Shakespeare's England.

Other activities happening around the University include a free family trail at the Ashmolean Museum on the second and third weekends of March and a conference about Shakespeare's history plays at Christ Church from 31 March to 3 April. Oxford University Press will launch a landmark new edition, *The New Oxford Shakespeare*, and special literary events will be held at Blackwell's.

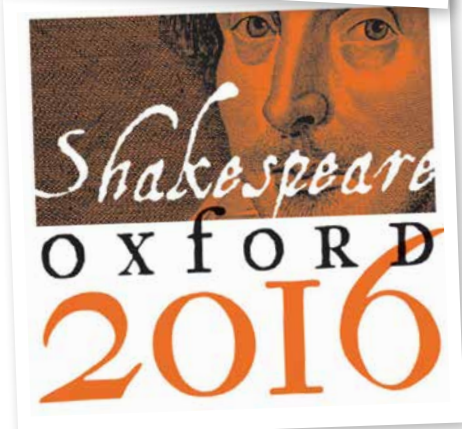
Elsewhere in the city there will be a two-man performance of *Macbeth* at the Old Fire Station on 1 March and a concert of arias inspired by Shakespeare at the North Wall Arts Centre on 15 April. There will even be a rendition of *Richard II* by the Hip Hop Company at the O2 Academy on 29 April.

The festival organisers have set the challenge for the entire canon of Shakespeare's plays to be performed over the year. Some of them will be performed in stunning venues

like the University Parks, Wadham gardens and Oxford Castle. Local schoolchildren have been invited to join the Shakespeare Schools Programme, which includes animation workshops and Shakespeare-themed carnival puppet-making for the Cowley Road Carnival.

'It's been fascinating to see the different cultural organisations in Oxford working together to develop a programme and a bid for funding,' says Professor Smith.

SHAKESPEARE GALORE! PAST PERFORMANCES INCLUDE (CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT): *HENRY V*, STAGED AT OXFORD CASTLE; *ROSALIND AND CELIA* FROM *AS YOU LIKE IT*, SET IN 1940S OCCUPIED FRANCE AND STAGED AT LADY MARGARET HALL; *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, WITH TITANIA AND OBERON APPEARING IN HEADINGTON HILL PARK; AND *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, THE GLOBE ON TOUR IN THE OLD SCHOOLS QUAD AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY



▶ The full programme of events can be found on the Shakespeare Oxford 2016 website: www.shakespeareoxford2016.co.uk

SAFE AND SECURE

Sally Croft looks at the work of the University's Security Services team

'Oxford is a safe city and the University is a safe institution,' says Paul Sullivan, Head of University Security Services. 'It has very low rates of crime compared with other similar cities.'

He should know: his team of 70 staff is responsible for the round-the-clock security of around 440 University buildings spread across the city and – in a general way, at least – the safety of about 10,000 members of staff and 22,000 students. He is very pleased to note that in the latest edition of the annual *Complete University Guide*, which uses police data to compare crime in student towns and cities, Oxford comes out as the 11th-safest university in the country – remarkable for an institution of its size and complexity.

'We receive about 250 reports a year of crime on the University estate and much of that is low-level criminal activity such as the theft of pedal cycles,' he says. 'Even there, the fact that we have been selling D-locks for cycles at the heavily discounted price of £15 for the last two years is having an effect – with about 2,500 locks sold, there's been a 40% reduction in cycle theft.'

Paul and his team operate from three University bases. The main control centre is in the Old Observatory, close to the University Parks, and there are small outstations at the Old Road Campus and the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. Uniformed staff can often be seen on foot or vehicle patrol, available to support and help staff, students or visitors concerned about any safety or security issues. This, though, is simply one facet of their duties.

From the central control room, the team monitors alarms for University buildings and is able to respond swiftly to any fire, intruder, personal attack or environmental alarms, calling on the police or other emergency services when necessary. They also operate a comprehensive CCTV system, primarily monitoring external areas to detect and prevent crime; partner organisations such as the local police can access live footage if necessary. A new digital platform also now allows CCTV systems in individual departments or colleges to be linked up.

Departments, University museums and colleges are responsible for their own security arrangements, but advice and a wide range of services is available from the team, including security assessments and personnel vetting. 'Security Services provide us with a number of professional services such as alarm monitoring, key holding, lone worker protection and crime reduction advice – the 24/7 staff patrols are especially helpful,' says Sarah Gauntlett, Domestic Bursar at Green Templeton.

Setting up strong security partnerships both internally and externally has been a priority for Paul in recent years. He meets with the local police regularly to share information on crime and incidents of note and, three years ago, set up a network of SLOs – security liaison officers. Each department was asked to put forward a volunteer who would act as security lead: the contact point for updates and briefings and any security planning for their department. The University now requires all departments to have plans to cover emergency situations requiring building evacuation or lockdown and the network of 85 SLOs has been helping to take this forward.

'We can use the digital radio system to simultaneously contact everybody immediately if there's a major incident'

Rapid communication is of course key in emergency situations. All Security Services staff carry digital radios and these are also used by staff in reception areas, college lodges and within departments. 'The radios can be set up with multiple talk groups, allowing people to communicate within their own group, they can be used to contact us in the event of an emerging problem and, very importantly, we can use the system to simultaneously contact everybody immediately if there's a major incident,' says Paul. Reception staff also have immediate access to the Security Services' control room via both emergency and non-emergency phone numbers.

The control room now has a new 'Command and Control' electronic incident management system as result of collaboration with IT Services. Instead of the old pen and log book system, incidents are recorded electronically. Comprehensive details about a building or location can be summoned at the touch of a button, as can incident reports.

The introduction of this system has contributed hugely to one of Paul's key objectives: improved customer service. 'Over the last year or so we've made a number of improvements as a result of engaging with our customers, analysing complaints and feedback, and measuring our performance,' he says. A Customer Stakeholder Group meets regularly

and staff training is customer-focused. The four apprentices taken on by the team last year are studying for their NVQ in Customer Service, topped up by security training. Last November the team's achievements were recognised under the national, government-led 'Customer Service Excellence' accreditation, with nine areas of best practice highlighted. 'That's an excellent external validation of the improvement we've been aiming for,' Paul notes.

The Security Services website reinforces this commitment to customer service, with detailed information about the services available, plus guidance on crime prevention strategies and personal safety. Crime Prevention Design Advisers Lesley Nesbitt and Belinda Hopkins are available to give talks, make site visits, suggest ways of designing against crime and can also provide victim support. There is also a safety and security section on the Mobile Oxford app – particularly popular with students, says Paul – which links to emergency phone numbers and offers immediate advice on personal safety and how to protect belongings.



More at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss/services and <http://m.ox.ac.uk/#security>



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WHY AM I HERE?

JACQUELINE THALMANN

Curator of Christ Church Picture Gallery

How come Christ Church has a picture gallery?

It's due to the extraordinary foresight of one of our alumni, General John Guise, who in 1765 left his collection of almost 200 paintings and 2,000 drawings to the college, thus establishing the first art museum in Britain. Long before the Ashmolean collected paintings and drawings, Christ Church had a dedicated art gallery open to the public. The first catalogue was printed in 1776.

Other pioneering donations followed, such as Fox-Strangways' gift of 37 early Italian paintings in 1828. The new gallery – the current building – was sensitively designed by Powell and Moya and opened in 1968. It is regarded as one of the most successful modern galleries.

What's in the gallery?

Old Master paintings, drawings and prints as well as a collection of 18th-century drinking glasses and Russian metal icons. We also have changing exhibitions, sometimes of contemporary artists. Christ Church has one of the most important private Old Master collections in the country, with outstanding visual treats.

What are the most important items?

Annibale Carracci's *Butcher's Shop* was a groundbreaking painting – the first monumental depiction of a genre scene, an everyday life moment. John Riley's *Scullion* is the first portrait ever painted of a servant and his gaze fixes us over the centuries. The esoteric *Madonna and Child* by Piero della Francesca or Filippino Lippi's painting *The Wounded Centaur* are also beautiful examples. The painting that our visitors probably like most is Anthony van Dyck's *Horse and Rider*. It is an unfinished fragment and it fascinates with its undiluted directness.

I haven't even touched upon our drawings collection, which includes works by Leonardo, Hugo van der Goes and Carracci. Works on paper are easily damaged by light and cannot therefore be on constant display; we curators are not so much hiding them from view, but preserving these frail pieces of paper – some half a millennium old – for future generations. But we always have rotating exhibitions with some of them on show.

What does your job entail?

It's an exciting and varied role between practice and theory. When I feel stuck on my

research (on the paintings, the collection, new exhibitions), I can deal with the practical sides – conservation decisions, designs for posters, wall fittings, building maintenance issues, filling in forms about health and safety – and vice versa.

What do you most enjoy about it?

I like the research and presenting my findings to visitors, students and colleagues through exhibitions, talks and writing. I also enjoy the curating side of the role – making exhibitions and decisions on where, how and why to hang a painting – and also teaching and mentoring people who are interested in this profession.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A poet – that was before I had learned to write – I just sang my verses and probably annoyed my siblings. After that I went through a whole spectrum of professions, but my first actual jobs were babysitting and working on archaeological excavation sites in the summer holidays.

How did you get from there to here?

It's been a long journey with many twists and turns – even several months working on a building site – but I've now been in this job for over 12 years. That's the longest I've ever lived in the same place and a sign of how much I enjoy my current post.

What's your own favourite work in the gallery?

No one favourite, but I do have days when I am particularly enthralled with an object and rediscover its singularity – like the lightness and elegance in Gaudier-Brzeska's sculpture *The Dancer*. Another day it is Giovanni di Paolo's beautiful rendering of *Calvary* or the sensitive drapery study by Boltraffio, one of Leonardo's pupils.

When can we visit?

The gallery is open throughout the week (see www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery) and there are regular tours on Monday afternoon. Special tours can be organised.

Finally, which three people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party?

Difficult to decide. It would be interesting to have Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael (all at the end of their lives) for dinner, but I'm not sure they would have got on very well. Let's say for next weekend: David Bowie, General John Guise and Catherine the Great.



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VIEWFINDER

WHERE'S THIS FABULOUS NEW FORUM? ANSWER ON P5.

